Population of Sarus Crane

2170. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the population of Sarus Crane, the tallest of the flying birds, in Gujarat;

(b) what is their population in the State as a percentage of world population;

(c) whether their population is fast dwindling, as per various census report;

(d) whether the bird is listed as endangered specie in the schedule of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; and

(e) if not, whether Government are making any review to change the schedule?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) As per the latest survey carried out in 2001 by Gujarat Ecological Education Research Foundation, Gandhinagar, the estimated number of Sarus Cranes in the State is about 1403. Estimated number of Indian Sarus Cranes in the world is about 8000-10000. Thus existing Sarus Crane population in Gujarat is about 15.5% of the world population.

(c) There has been a decline over the years in the population of Sarus Cranes.

(d) Sarus Crane is listed under Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(e) As the species enjoys protection against hunting all over the country, there is no need to transfer it to any other Schedule.

Restoration of Dal Lake

2171. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided required grant for restoration of the past glory of the world famous Dal Lake in Srinagar;